

Application No. 10/796,945
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: THE AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to clarify that U.S. Application Serial No. 10/132,493, filed April 25, 2002, is now abandoned, as required by the Examiner.

It is respectfully requested that the amendment to the specification be approved and entered, and that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

RE: NEW CLAIMS 38-47

Claims 1-37 have been canceled, without prejudice, and new claims 38-47 have been added.

New independent claims 38 and 43 have been prepared to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby information for inputting operation instructions (to direct an access device to execute a set of operations) is output via an output unit of the access device, in accordance with decoded control information. In addition, new independent claims 38 and 43 have been prepared to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby it is discriminated whether a user has inputted the operation instructions, and whereby if the user has inputted the

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operation instructions, the access device is directed to execute the set of operations to obtain and display third information. See, for example, the disclosure at pages 17-29 of the specification.

Claims 39-42 and 44-47, moreover, correspond respectively to the subject matter of (now canceled) claims 2-5 depending from new independent claims 38 and 43.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that new claims 38-47 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, 17-29 and 34-37 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,708,208 ("Philyaw"), and claims 5, 10, 15, 16 and 30-33 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Philyaw and USP 6,629,635 ("Akamine"). These rejections, however are respectfully traversed with respect to new claims 38-47.

According to the present invention recited in new independent claims 38 and 43, a coded image is read from printed matter that includes first information (such as basic information as recited in claims 42 and 47). The coded image is decoded to obtain second information, which may be more detailed information related to the first information, and to obtain control information. Then, based on the control information, an output

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unit outputs information for inputting operation instructions to direct an access device to execute a set of operations (to obtain third information, which is for example additional or updated information), in accordance with the decoded control information.

For example, the output unit could display a link icon which is clicked (via the operation unit) to direct the access device to obtain the third (additional or updated) information. Alternatively, the output unit could verbally instruct the user to say "update" to direct the access device to obtain the third information. The user then inputs the operation instructions via the operation unit, and the discriminating unit discriminates whether the operation instructions have been inputted by the user. Then, when the operation instructions are input, the access device is directed to obtain and display the third (additional or updated) information.

Thus, according to the claimed present invention, the third (additional or updated) information is obtained only when the user inputs the operation instructions. And with this structure, the user is enabled to view the second, more detailed, information before deciding whether the third (additional or updated) information is necessary.

By contrast, Philyaw merely discloses a technique whereby a barcode is scanned by an input device, and information relating to the scanned barcode is obtained and displayed, together with

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advertisement information corresponding to another product. And it is respectfully submitted that Philyaw does not at all disclose, teach or suggest that after the (second) information coded in the barcode is obtained, the user may input operation instructions to obtain third (additional or updated) information, as according to the claimed present invention. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Philyaw does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the claimed present invention whereby the user may choose to not input instructions so that the third information is not obtained. Indeed, it is respectfully submitted that it would be counterproductive for Philyaw to allow the user to refuse the extraneous advertisement information (which the Examiner asserts corresponds to the third information of the present invention).

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Philyaw does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention whereby: (i) information is output via the output unit for inputting operation instructions to direct the access device to execute a set of operations, in accordance with the decoded control information, (ii) it is discriminated whether a user has inputted the operation instructions, and (iii) if the user has inputted the operation instructions, the access device is directed to execute the set of operations to obtain the third (additional or updated) information.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in new independent claims 38 and 43, as well as new claims 39-42 and 44-47 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Philyaw, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

RE: USP 6,629,635 ("Akamine")

Akamine has a U.S. filing date of November 27, 2000, which is before the filing date of the present application, but was published on October 7, 2003, which is after the effective U.S. filing date of April 25, 2002 of the present application. Accordingly, Akamine is only a reference against the present application under 35 USC 102(e).

However, Akamine and the claimed present invention were commonly owned by Olympus Optical Co., Ltd., at the time the present invention was made.

Accordingly, Akamine is not a proper reference against the present application for rejections under 35 USC 103, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 USC 103 in view of Akamine be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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